

California License Plate Data (1914 – 1962) – Appendix 1E

This chart has information on the license plates issued between 1914 and 1962. Refer to the *California License Plates and Proof of Current Registration* (REG 36) for information on license plates issued since 1963.

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Background Color</i> | <i>Characters Color</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1914 | Brick Red | White | N/A |
| 1915 | Yellow | Black | |
| 1916 – 1919 | White | Blue | During these years, California issued symbols affixed to the license plates as evidence of registration. In 1916, the symbol was the figure of a bear; in 1917, a poppy; in 1918, the Liberty Bell; and in 1919, a star. |
| 1920 | Black | White | N/A |
| 1921 | Yellow | Black | |
| 1922 | White | Blue | |
| 1923 | Black | White | |
| 1924 | Green | White | |
| 1925 | Yellow | Black | |
| 1926 | Blue | White | |
| 1927 | Maroon | White | |
| 1928 | Blue | Yellow | |
| 1929 | Black | Orange | |
| 1930 | Orange | Black | |
| 1931 | Black | Orange | |
| 1932 | Orange | Black | |
| 1933 | Black | Orange | |
| 1934 | Orange | Black | |
| 1935 | Black | Orange | |
| 1936 | Orange | Black | |
| 1937 | Black | Orange | |
| 1938 | Lemon Yellow | Black | |
| 1939 | Blue | Yellow | Contained “California World’s Fair” |
| 1940 | Orange | Black | N/A |

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Background Color</i> | <i>Characters Color</i> | <i>Comments</i> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1941 – 1944 | Black | Yellow | <p>A steel strip painted yellow with black numerals was also used in conjunction with the 1941 plates.</p> <p>A metal lithographed tab, white background with red letter “V” was used with 1941 and 1942 plates.</p> <p>A windshield sticker was used with 1941 and 1942 plates.</p> |
| 1945 | Black | White | One plate only. |
| 1946 | | | Metal lithographed tab, chrome yellow background with black numerals “46” for use with the 1945 plate. |
| 1947 | Yellow | Black | N/A |
| 1948 | | | Aluminum tab, natural background with the red numerals “48” for use on upper right-hand corner of 1947 plates. |
| 1949 | | | Aluminum tab, natural background with black numerals “49” for use on upper right-hand corner of 1947 plates. |
| 1950 | | | Aluminum tab, natural background with red numerals “50” for use on upper right-hand corner of 1947 plates. |
| 1951 | Black | Yellow | N/A |
| 1952 | | | Steel tab, chrome yellow background with black numerals “52” for use on lower right-hand corner of 1951 plates. |
| 1953 | | | Steel tab, white background with black numerals “53” for use on lower right-hand corner of 1951 plates. |
| 1954 | | | Steel tab, one only, red background with white numerals “54” for use on lower right-hand corner of rear 1951 plate. |
| 1955 | | | Steel tab, one only, pearl grey background with black numerals “55” for use on lower right-hand corner of rear 1951 plate. |

| <i>Year</i> | <i>Background Color</i> | <i>Characters Color</i> | <i>Comments</i> | |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | | <i>Sticker Background Color</i> | <i>Sticker Character Color</i> |
| 1956 | Chrome Yellow | Black | No sticker issued. | |
| 1957 | | | Red | Black |
| 1958 | | | Green | White |
| 1959 | | | White | Black |
| 1960 | Chrome Yellow | Black | Blue-Grey | Silver |
| 1961 | | | Red | Silver |
| 1962 | | | White | Green |